

# ANNUAL REPORT

Prevent suffering, provide assistance to sick/injured and stray animals in Co. Offaly ,



# ABOUT THE OFFALYSPCA

Established in 1981, the Offaly Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) is a voluntary rescue charity managed and run completely by a small group of volunteers.

The aim of our charity is to prevent suffering, provide assistance to sick/injured and stray animals, and where possible to improve the lives of companion animals by providing subsidised special neutering schemes at various times throughout the year depending on the availability of funds.



Offaly Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ltd. Phone: 086 378 5584

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# BOARD MEMBERS

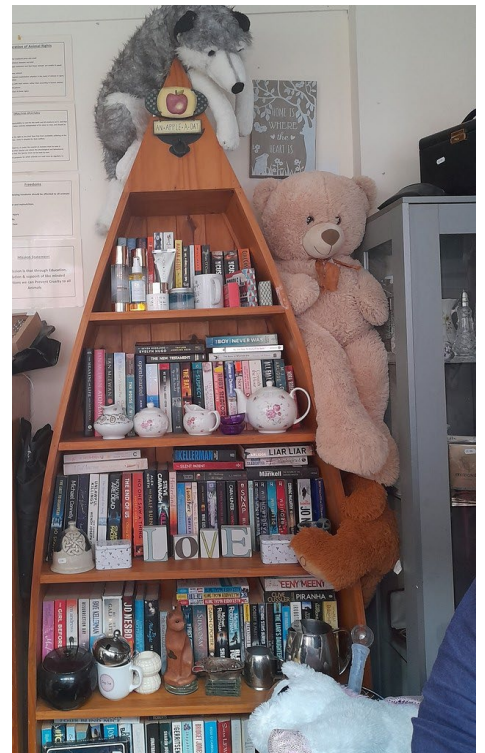
- ♦ Caroline Meally - Chairperson
- ♦ Marion Tully - Dog Programme
- ♦ Joyce Dennehy - Board Member
- ♦ Irene McMahon - Board Member
- ♦ Mary Malone - Secretary
- ♦ Colette Coates - Treasurer



## Premises:

We are truly fortunate to retain our office premises in Market Place, and we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Tom Stokes for leasing these facilities to us at a highly favorable rate. The availability of this space is crucial in enabling our organization to carry out its charitable activities with the necessary efficiency and consistency.

Additionally, we extend our appreciation to the Community Employment Scheme for the continued placement of Lisa and Marion for another year. Their professionalism, dedication, and commitment have greatly benefited our organisation, and we sincerely hope they will continue to contribute to our efforts in the upcoming year.



# Chairperson's Address

As Chairperson of the Offaly Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA), it is my privilege to present our Annual Report for 2024.

I would like to begin by extending my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members — past and present — for their commitment and dedication throughout the year. I also wish to express my deepest gratitude to our team of volunteers, whose enthusiasm, compassion, and tireless efforts continue to drive the success of the OSPCA and the welfare of animals across County Offaly.

It has been an honour to serve as Chair during a year in which our organisation has been called upon to assist an ever-increasing number of animals in need. Time and again, I am inspired by the way our volunteers rise to every challenge — whether through fostering, public awareness campaigns, fundraising activities, or the countless hours they devote to promoting and protecting animal welfare.

In 2024, I was particularly proud that the OSPCA was among the first animal rescue organisations in Ireland to offer subsidised neutering and microchipping for XL Bully breeds, ensuring that owners could comply with new national regulations in a responsible and affordable way.

I would also like to acknowledge the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, whose grant of €42,425 awarded to the OSPCA for use in 2024 was received with immense gratitude. This funding greatly enhanced our ability to continue our vital work across the county.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the OSPCA will continue to grow in strength and impact. Our achievements — both past and future — would not be possible without the unwavering devotion of our volunteers and supporters. Your passion, resilience, and generosity remain the driving force behind everything we do.

To everyone who has supported our work over the past year, I extend my heartfelt thanks. I hope you take pride in reading about all that you helped us accomplish in 2024. Together, we will continue our journey toward a society where suffering is prevented, and where sick, injured, and stray animals receive the care, protection, and compassion they deserve.

Caroline Meally , Chairperson  
Offaly Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA)

# Education Programme 2024

The year 2024 marked the beginning of a new team dedicated to enhancing our education programme and expanding the number of schools we could reach with our educational talks. Although progress was gradual at the outset, by the end of the year the programme was operating at full momentum.

Our new team comprised myself, Daria Walsh, Yvonne Kerry, Sadhbh Ní Ógáin, and Anne Hctor. Throughout the year, we delivered presentations to eleven primary and secondary schools, as well . as one preschool, one ladies' club, and the annual Blessing of the Animals event. Attendance at these sessions ranged from approximately ten to one hundred and thirty participants per visit

We were very encouraged by the positive feedback received from participating schools, and we are delighted that the majority have invited us to return in 2025. Several schools also made generous donations of cat and dog food, treats, and other supplies — all of which were gratefully received by our rescued animals.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved in this important programme. It is my hope that we can continue to deliver these educational sessions for as long as our services are needed.

**Colette Coates**, Education Co-ordinator



# Dog Programme 2024

In 2024, the OSPCA rehomed 12 dogs and puppies. We also reunited over 50 lost or stray dogs with owners, mainly through social media. A lot of the lost or stray dogs unfortunately can be connected with weather conditions, for example, storms, breakages in fencing, gates blowing open and also around Halloween.

Our rehoming procedure included discussing the suitability of a particular dog, and the commitment of the perspective adoptive family. A home check was always carried out prior to an adoption taking place. It is stressed to people adopting from us that a rescue dog will take time to settle into a new environment, and we are always available to help or advise with any problems that may arise during the settling in period. On the rare occasions a dog doesn't settle with their new family, we insist on the dog being returned to us.

All dogs taken into our care are treated for parasites, fully vaccinated, neutered and microchipped. We ask for an adoption donation of €200, which partially covers the cost of the vet treatment. The OSPCA dog programme is committed to educating the public regarding dog welfare, in particular, the importance of neutering and microchipping, and ensuring dogs are identifiable by collar/ID tag. In 2024, we offered subsidised neutering for female dogs and also subsidised microchipping for both male and female dogs. We liaised with neighbouring dog rescues, exchanging general information including lost/found dogs, enquiries about specific breeds or problems in a particular area.

We were one of the first rescues in the country to offer a subsidised neutering and microchipping of XL Bully Breeds to enable compliance with new regulations. The scheme initially ran from the 9<sup>th</sup> September to the 4<sup>th</sup> October. Funding allowing we will hope to extend this scheme into 2025.

## **Marion Tully, Dog Programme**

### **PIP - a success story!**

This is PIP she was two years old was seen wandering on a country lane by one of our volunteers and it took an hour to lure her out from hiding. As we didn't have a free foster home, at the time, we put up an appeal and found a lovely lad called Jayne who lived near Roscrea who took her to foster. Pip was then vaccinated wormed, defleaed, microchipped and neutered. Pip came on in leaps and bounds and even started to take her foster Mama's wolfhound to task! After a Homecheck in Dublin, she has got a five star home. This is a great start to her FUREVER home a story with a happy ending



# Cat & Kitten Programme 2024

During 2024, the number of calls received concerning cats and kittens increased considerably. Reports included stray cats, sick or injured animals, pregnant cats, and litters of kittens both with and without their mothers. We also responded to numerous cases involving kittens found in car engines, sheds, garages, on roadsides, and in other extraordinary or dangerous locations. Many were suffering from broken limbs, eye infections, or other serious injuries.

This sharp rise in kitten-related calls is deeply concerning, particularly when we consider that the Offaly SPCA contributed towards the neutering of 935 felines in 2024. One volunteer aptly described the situation as *“trying to mop up with the tap still running.”* At times, it can feel like a never-ending task — yet every kitten saved brings immense reward and purpose to our efforts.

As we do not operate an animal shelter, we are entirely dependent on the extraordinary kindness, care, compassion, and dedication of our wonderful fosterers. Without these selfless individuals, our work simply would not be possible. Thanks to their commitment, we are able to rescue, rehabilitate, and care for countless vulnerable kittens and cats.

Many of our rescues arrive sick, injured, frightened, malnourished, and exhausted. Each is examined, treated, and cared for with great gentleness. They are provided with nutritious food, warmth, and soft bedding — often for the first time in their lives. Through this care, they begin to recover, trust, and flourish.

Our rescued animals are truly remarkable. Having known hardship, hunger, and fear, they come to deeply appreciate the kindness and love shown to them by their carers.

- To every fosterer who opened your home and heart to a cat or kitten — **thank you.**
- To Caroline, Mary, Irene, Yvonne, and Shirley, who tirelessly carried the “kitten phone” throughout their seven-day volunteer shifts — **thank you.**
- To every dedicated volunteer associated with Offaly SPCA — **thank you.**
- To all who helped cats or kittens in danger or distress — **thank you.**
- To everyone who donated food, supplies, or other essentials — **thank you.**
- To those who neutered their own cats, or strays and ferals’ in their communities — **thank you.**
- To all who adopted a cat or kitten from us, or cared for a lost or abandoned one — **thank you.**

Together, through compassion, cooperation, and unwavering dedication, we truly make a difference — saving lives, one cat at a time.

**Shirley Mahon**, Cat Programme

# Feral Cat Awareness and Neutering Programme

A feral cat is one that has never been handled or socialised as a kitten and has therefore become a “wild” cat. Through no fault of their own, these animals struggle to survive against immense odds — facing hunger, exposure, and a lack of care or shelter.

Adding to their hardship, feral cats breed uncontrollably, with females capable of producing up to three litters per year. By the time a mother cat is rearing her third litter, her first litter may already be reproducing as well. One unneutered female cat can be responsible for bringing up to 35 kittens into her territory in just 14 months. The rate of population growth — and resulting overpopulation — is truly staggering. The most effective and humane way to manage this crisis is through timely neutering. Quite simply, prevention is the cure. By neutering feral and stray cats, we can stop the cycle of suffering before it begins.

At Offaly SPCA, we actively support the community in this effort. We offer the loan of humane cat traps (subject to a fully refundable deposit to ensure their safe return) and provide neutering vouchers at a cost of just €10 per cat. Offaly SPCA covers the remaining veterinary costs directly with participating vets throughout the county.

Unfortunately, many calls we receive come after litters have already been born — when kittens are found in sheds, gardens, garages, greenhouses, or shrubbery. Often, we are asked if someone can “come out and take them all away.” Regrettably, this is not possible. We do not operate an animal shelter, nor do we have the volunteers required to collect or trap feral cats on site. However, we empower members of the public to take action themselves by using our equipment and vouchers to trap and neuter stray or feral cats before the problem escalates.

In 2024, **Offaly SPCA contributed to the neutering of 935 cats and kittens** — an extraordinary achievement for a small, entirely voluntary charity operating with limited resources.

To prevent further overpopulation and unnecessary suffering, we urge everyone to take part in this vital effort:

Do something extraordinary. Neuter your own cat — and any strays you can help.

**Shirley Mahon**, Cat Programme

# Financial Report 2024

2024 started off on a good financial footing. We had received a Welfare grant from The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in December 2023 to be used in 2024 in the Offaly area. This sum of €42,425 was very gratefully received and together with a credit balance from 2023 enabled us to start planning for the year.

In 2024 as in previous years, the general public were very generous with donations which were received through PayPal, Facebook, Direct Debits and through our Office. We also receive some large donations from local companies who wish to remain anonymous. Other types of donations come into the office in the form of Cat/Dog food, bedding and various other items. This enables us to spend more money on the vet bills and run more neuter campaigns. Once again, a big thank you to our Volunteers who help every year with our various fundraising events. Our church gate collections brought in €4,250 even though the amount of people attending the mass is down considerably, as a lot of people are participating online. We are so grateful to everyone who donates to our organisation no matter how big or small.

As you can see from our income and expenditure sheet attached, the majority of our money is spent on vet bills. All other bills are necessary to keep the office running so we can continue to carry out our work and support to the public with any animal welfare concerns.

We would like to thank everyone who supports us year on year. To the wonderful vets who continue to help us with reduced rates so we can help more animals who need it - thank you. A massive thank you to our wonderful accountants Helena Grattan and a special thanks to Mr Tom Stokes who continues to let us rent our office in Market Place at a very favourable rate. We could not carry out our work without this wonderful space.

**Colette Coates**, Treasurer



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## OFFALY SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS LTD.

### Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u>                         | <u>2024</u>     | <u>INCOME</u>                                        | <u>2024</u>    |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Veterinary Fees(neuter&spay)               | € 45,798.32     | Collection Boxes                                     | € 2,890.00     |
| Veterinary Fees(general)                   | € 11,726.75     | Church gate collections                              | € 4,250.00     |
| Maintenance cost of animals                | € -             | Dog Adoptions                                        | € 2,220.00     |
| Fundraising costs(calendars,badges,tokens) | € -             | Cat Adoptions                                        | € 5,880.00     |
| ISPCA Affiliation and insurance            | € 1,352.00      | Dept of Agri Food And The MarineAnimal Welfare Grant | €42,425.00     |
| Telephone                                  | € 3,258.28      | Donations From Schools                               | € 1,315.00     |
| Stationary & Postage                       | € 600.39        | D.Debit /Paypal Donations                            | € 6,781.55     |
| Bank Charges                               | € 560.18        | General Donations                                    | € 6,379.65     |
| A.G.M / Meeting Costs                      | € 25.00         | Face book Donations                                  | € 350.00       |
| Accountancy Fees                           | € -             | Cat Vouchers                                         | €10,796.00     |
| Water Rates                                | € 158.13        | Dog Vouchers                                         | € 1,060.00     |
| Rent                                       | € 2,340.00      | Christmas Raffle                                     | € 935.00       |
| Electricity                                | € 938.99        | Micrichip Vouchers                                   | € 120.00       |
| Recruitment expences                       | € -             | Corner Closet                                        | € 2,783.00     |
| Subscriptions                              | € 221.41        | Offaly County Council grant.                         | € -            |
| Clothing Costs                             | € 385.00        |                                                      |                |
| <br>TOTAL EXPENDITURE                      | <br>€ 67,364.45 | <br>TOTAL INCOME                                     | <br>€88,185.20 |
| <br><u>PROFIT FOR YEAR</u>                 |                 |                                                      | <br>€20,820.75 |



On behalf of all the animals in our care during 2024, the Offaly Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported us and made our work possible.

Your generosity, compassion, and commitment allow us to continue rescuing, caring for, and rehoming animals in need across County Offaly.

We would especially like to thank:

- Our Board Members – for their leadership and guidance.
- Our Committee Members (and their families) – for their dedication and unwavering support.
- The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine – for funding our vital work.
- The Veterinary Practices across Offaly – for their continued professional support and care.
- Our wonderful Fosterers – without whom our rescues could not recover, grow, or thrive.
- Mr. Tom Stokes – for leasing our office premises to us at a very favourable rate.
- All those who fundraised in numerous creative and generous ways throughout 2024.
- Our Church Gate Collectors – for their tireless efforts on our behalf.
- Our Auditors – for their professional assistance and oversight.
- The people of Offaly – for always being there in our times of need.
- The local businesses of Offaly – for their valued support throughout the year.
- And last, but certainly not least, a massive thank you to our incredible volunteers. without your time, compassion, and dedication, we simply could not continue to save, support, and rehome the many animals who depend on us.

From all of us at the OSPCA — and on behalf of every animal you've helped — thank you.



Offaly Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ltd. (OSPCA)

## CONTACT US

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